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**MAYOR EMANUEL, BACP EASE REGULATIONS ON COIN-OPERATED LAUNDROMATS**

The Chicago City Council has approved an ordinance introduced by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP) regulating coin-operated laundry businesses that will ease their regulatory burden and lower their operating costs. The new ordinance reduces the number of overnight attendants required for coin-operated laundromats.

"It is important for us to continue to work in lock-step with the business community and residents to ensure safe and affordable services can be provided in every neighborhood," said Mayor Emanuel. "While business regulations may seem small to some, these types of changes have a big impact on the quality of life for residents and the ability for businesses to pass along those savings to customers."

Previously, the law required that operators must have two attendants during overnight hours, 11:30pm to 6:00am, and one attendant from 6:00pm to 11:30pm. Now only one attendant is required for the overnight hours.

"We took a hard look at this proposal and determined that we could help these businesses without compromising the safety of consumers," said BACP Commissioner Rosa Escareno. "Businesses that are open during the overnight hours are already required to maintain a video surveillance system and to report any illegal activity to the police."

The current trend in rental and new construction includes in-unit washers and dryers which leaves coin-op laundromats that provide a necessary service in many Chicago neighborhoods in reduced demand. By decreasing the required number of overnight attendants from two to one, the City has provided immediate financial relief to these businesses.

"The Illinois Coin Laundry Association (ILCLA) is pleased that the City of Chicago is reaching out to small businesses in the neighborhoods," said Paul Hansen, President of the Illinois Coin Laundry Association. "Laundromats, whose primary customers are low income and working class families, are happy that our representatives recognize the changes in technology and are willing to adapt regulations to reflect this. This ordinance will now allow more laundromats to be able to provide expanded hours to those who can't perform the necessary task of doing laundry during traditional hours in a safe and secure manner."

BACP is committed to supporting small businesses and safeguarding public safety. This ordinance reaches a compromise that serves both the business community and consumers.

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